

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 17.149

Transportation of beneficiaries of other Federal agencies, incident to medical services rendered upon requests of those agencies, will not be furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, except that facility vehicles may be used subject to reimbursement, and with the exception of beneficiaries of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance in the Philippines on a reimbursable basis under agreement with that agency. Transportation incident to medical services rendered allied beneficiaries under agreement will be subject to reimbursement by the governments concerned.

[21 FR 10387, Dec. 28, 1956]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 17.143, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 17.144 Limitations.

(a) VA shall deduct from amounts payable to persons under § 17.100(b), an amount equal to \$3 for each one-way trip to a VA facility, up to a maximum of \$18 in any calendar month. Persons required to make more than six one-way visits per calendar month will receive full travel reimbursement after the \$18 cap is met.

(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this section may be waived when imposition of the deductible would cause severe financial hardship. Loss of employment, or sudden illness or disability causing the beneficiary's income in the year of application to fall below the maximum level of VA pension, shall be deemed to constitute severe financial hardship.

(c) Transportation will not be authorized for the cost of travel by taxi or a hired car for visually impaired veterans (as a special mode), or by privately owned vehicle in any amount in excess of the cost of such travel by other forms of public transportation unless public transportation is not reasonably accessible or would be medically inadvisable.

(d) Transportation will not be authorized for the cost of travel in excess of the actual expense incurred by any

person as certified by that person in writing.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

[56 FR 52476, Oct. 21, 1991. Redesignated at 61 FR 21966, May 13, 1996]

§ 17.145 Approval of unauthorized travel of claimants and beneficiaries.

(a) Payment may be approved for travel performed under § 17.143(a) through (g) without prior authorization only in those cases where the Department of Veterans Affairs determines that there was a need for prompt medical care which was approved and:

(1) The circumstances prevented a request for prior travel authorization, or

(2) Due to Department of Veterans Affairs delay or error prior authorization for travel was not given, or

(3) There was a justifiable lack of knowledge on the part of a third party acting for the veteran that a request for prior authorization was necessary.

(b) In other cases, payment may be approved for such travel without prior authorization only upon a finding by the Secretary or designee that failure to secure prior authorization was justified.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

[29 FR 11183, Aug. 4, 1964, as amended at 45 FR 6938, Jan. 31, 1980. Redesignated at 56 FR 52475, Oct. 21, 1991, and further redesignated at 61 FR 21966, May 13, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 17072, Apr. 9, 1997]

PROSTHETIC, SENSORY, AND REHABILITATIVE AIDS

§ 17.149 Sensori-neural aids.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, VA will furnish needed sensori-neural aids (i.e., eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids) only to veterans otherwise receiving VA care or services and only as provided in this section.

(b) VA will furnish needed sensori-neural aids (i.e., eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids) to the following veterans:

(1) Those with a compensable service-connected disability;

(2) Those who are former prisoners of war;

(3) Those in receipt of benefits under 38 U.S.C. 1151;